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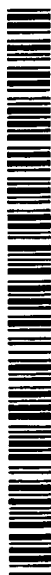


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(54) Title: **GEL-LIKE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION FOR SUBCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION COMPRISING BISPHOSPHONIC ACIDS OR THEIR SALTS**

(57) Abstract: The invention is concerned with a pharmaceutical preparation for subcutaneous, parenteral administration which contains bisphosphonic acids or their salts as the active substance, as well as the production of this preparation. By means of the preparation in accordance with the invention it is possible to administer locally relatively high concentrations of bisphosphonates without the occurrence of incompatibilities.

GEL-LIKE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION FOR SUBCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION COMPRISING
BISPHOSPHONIC ACIDS OR THEIR SALTS

The invention is concerned with a pharmaceutical preparation for subcutaneous, parenteral administration, which contains bisphosphonic acids or their salts as the active substance, as well as the production of this preparation. By means of the preparation in
5 accordance with the invention it is possible to administer locally relatively high concentrations of bisphosphonates without the occurrence of incompatibilities.

Bisphosphonates and their salts have been in use for years as highly effective medicaments for the treatment of various disorders of bone metabolism. Thus, a variety of bisphosphonates are used for the treatment of hypercalcaemia, malignant bone growth
10 disorders (metastatic bone disease) as well as osteoporosis, while others are in clinical development. Clodronate, ibandronate, tiludronate, etidronate, alendronate, risedronate, zoledronate among others can be named as examples. Bisphosphonates are used in a broad dosage range taking into consideration the widest variety of factors, especially the medical indication. Thus, parenteral preparations for intravenous infusion and injection are
15 preferably made available and utilized.

The subcutaneous, parenteral administration of clinically relevant amounts of bisphosphonic acids or their salts is, however, problematic. Inflammations, pains and necroses occur when bisphosphonate solutions are administered subcutaneously in therapeutically relevant concentrations, which are, for example, well tolerated in the case
20 of intravenous administration. Of course, the subcutaneous administration is especially attractive in many respects, because this mode of administration is perceived by the majority of patients to be much more pleasant than intravenous administration. It can be performed by medical auxiliaries or by patients themselves.

The pharmacokinetic differences which can occur in the case of subcutaneous
25 administration vis-à-vis intravenous administration are not of significance for the fields of

indication osteoporosis and osteoporosis prophylaxis which are at the centre of interest, since bisphosphonates display their activity after binding to bones, are accumulated there for a very long time and therefore their residence times in the blood after injection or also after oral administration are only of secondary importance.

- 5 Thus, only a few, not completely satisfactory proposals for the development of subcutaneously usable bisphosphonate preparations have hitherto become known.

Difficultly soluble zinc and magnesium salts of 1,1-bisphosphonic acids are described in DE 42 44 422 A1, with the object of releasing therapeutically relevant amounts of active substance slowly by dissolution from a local depot.

- 10 However, for various reasons this principle is not well suited to achieve a significantly improved compatibility. Thus, even if the dissolution kinetic is altered a good compatibility does not, however, result, since a particulate system is formed by the difficultly soluble salt. It has been established that this not only has numerous disadvantages upon administration, but also leads to additional difficulties. From the
15 technological viewpoint not only the production, dosing and decantation, but also the storage, quality control and quality guarantee of such systems is very difficult. Particulate systems are mainly suspensions which are physically unstable and, for this reason, in the case of short-term storage already undergo changes which are relevant to quality. As mentioned above, the administration of such particulate systems is not simple. Thus,
20 dosing problems, which are caused by phase separation or sedimentation, can occur immediately upon administration. The obstruction of injection needles by suspension particles is likewise a problem which has to be taken into consideration seriously.

- The subcutaneous administration of difficultly soluble particles is not optimal also from the toxicological viewpoint. The presence of foreign particles induces specific and
25 non-specific defence mechanisms which lead to diverse reactions, especially to local cellular changes. Phagocytes accumulate, other cells accompany the degradation and an encapsulation of the foreign particles may occur. In summary, particulate systems lead to generally undesired reactions which decrease compatibility.

- On the other hand, water-soluble calcium salts of ibandronate for the production of
30 medicaments are described in DE 42 44 423 A1. These eliminate the disadvantages of difficultly soluble salts and, on the basis of a lower solubility than the usual alkali or ammonium salts, they should have a better tissue compatibility than these without exhibiting the disadvantages of the suspensions.

This formulation strategy is, however, not completely conclusive and in practice does not lead to the desired, medically relevant improvement in compatibility. As a molecular dispersed solution ("true solution" in the physico-chemical sense) is present, then its concentration of dissolved active substance (e.g. 1 mg/ml) alone determines the compatibility and not on the other hand the saturation solubility. While the saturation solubilities of e.g. Na^+ and Ca^{2+} salts of bisphosphonates, especially ibandronate, differ significantly, their individual physiological irritating effects are on the other hand the same in the case of the same dissolved concentration.

It has been established that the achievable compatibility limits or active substance concentrations of water-soluble Ca^{2+} salts, which are well tolerated after subcutaneous administration, are so low that they are not usable in practice. In particular, the treatment interval of only one or a few injections every three months, which is especially desirable and attractive from the viewpoint of patients and of medical personnel, can therefore not be realized.

The underlying purpose of the invention accordingly lay in the provision of pharmaceutical preparations suitable for subcutaneous administration which contain bisphosphonic acids or their physiologically compatible salts and with which it is possible to administer locally high, therapeutically relevant concentrations of bisphosphonates compatibly such that medically significant treatment regimens with administrations at long time intervals (≥ 4 weeks) are possible.

The problem of the invention is solved by an aqueous pharmaceutical preparation which contains the active substance or the active substance mixture and at least one compound which inhibits a diffusion of the active substance in the tissue, with the active substance being present in dissolved form in the preparation and the active substance and diffusion-inhibiting compound being selected such that the pharmaceutical preparation contains no solid particulate components. If desired, other usual pharmaceutical carriers and/or adjuvants, which, however, should not form particles, are present in the preparation. In a preferred embodiment the present invention comprises a gel-like, aqueous pharmaceutical preparation for subcutaneous administration containing bisphosphonic acids or their physiologically acceptable salts, characterized in that the pharmaceutical preparation contains at least one compound which inhibits the diffusion of the active substance in the tissue, with the active substance being present in dissolved form in the preparation and the preparation having a viscosity $\geq 220 \text{ mPa}\cdot\text{s}$.

The addition of the diffusion-inhibiting substance prevents on the basis of specific and non-specific interactions with the active substance and its counter-ions (such as e.g. Na^+ , Ca^{2+} etc.) the bisphosphonic acids or their salts from causing incompatibility symptoms, such as e.g. irritations, in the tissue after subcutaneous administration.

- 5 The diffusion-inhibiting substances are in the meaning of the invention preferably hydrogel-forming substances and other non-particulate matrices, preferably natural and synthetic polymers.

In accordance with the invention there come into consideration pharmaceutically usual or physiologically acceptable polymers and gel formers, e.g. cellulose derivatives,
10 alginic acid derivatives, dextrans, hyaluronic acids, dermatan and heparan sulphates, gelatins, collagen, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, poly(meth)acrylic acids, poly(meth)acrylates and/or their derivatives. Derivatives are chemically modified entities obtained by amidation, alkylation, carboxymethylation, addition of fatty acid units or addition of polyethyleneglycol-units (so called 'pegylation'). To get the necessary gel
15 forming properties the polymers additionally may be cross-linked by e.g. glutardialdehyde. In case of acidic compounds (alginic acid, polymethacrylates) derivatives are also their salts (such as ammonium-, barium-, magnesium-, calcium-salt). These compounds are known in the art and described for example in Ash, M. and I.: Handbook of Pharmaceutical Additives. Gower, 1995, 887f.; 915-918; Fiedler, H. P.: Lexikon der
20 Hilfsstoffe. ecv, 1998; Kibbe, A. H.: Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients. 3rd ed., Pharmaceutical Press, 2000. Preferably, the natural polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, alginic acid derivatives, dextrans, gelatines, collagen, hyaluronic acids and/or dermatan and heparan sulphates. The cellulose derivatives are the preferred diffusion-inhibiting substances in the meaning of the invention. In the case of
25 the cellulose derivatives there preferably come into consideration the soluble alkyl- or hydroxyalkylcellulose derivatives, such as e.g. hydroxymethylcellulose (HMC), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), methylhydroxyethylcellulose (MHEC), hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC), carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), methylcellulose (MC) or their mixtures.

- 30 The term "alkyl", alone or in combination, means a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group containing a maximum of 7, preferably a maximum of 4, carbon atoms, e.g., methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, 2-methylpropyl (iso-butyl), 1-methylethyl (iso-propyl), n-butyl, and 1,1-dimethylethyl (t-butyl), preferably methyl and ethyl.

A more preferred natural polymer is sodium carboxymethylcellulose. Another
35 preferred natural polymer is alginate.

In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the synthetic polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(meth)acrylic acids, poly(meth)acrylates, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinyl alcohol.

5 In accordance with the invention the gel formers are used in concentrations which guarantee that, with the viscosities produced, on the one hand the requisite diffusion inhibition is achieved and on the other hand the requisite injectability is permitted. The gel former is used in concentrations of 0.01-15 % (w/w).

10 In an especially preferred embodiment of the invention sodium carboxymethylcellulose (Na CMC) is used in a concentration of 1-7% (w/w), particularly of 4-6% (w/w). In another preferred embodiment alginate is used in concentrations of 1-5% (w/w), especially of 2-3% (w/w).

15 In accordance with the invention the preferred viscosities of the thickened preparations produced by means of the gel former lie in the range of ≥ 220 mPa*s, particularly of 350 to 1800 mPa*s, whereby the preparations must be administerable by means of suitable injection needles.

In a further especially preferred embodiment there are added to the preparation calcium ions (final concentration 1-20 mM, preferably 5-15 mM), with these being preferably added in the form of calcium chloride.

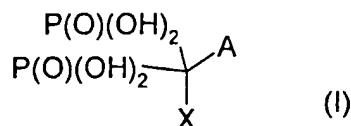
20 Bisphosphonic acids or their physiologically acceptable salts as pharmaceutical active substances are described for example in US Patent 4,666,895, US Patent 4,719,203, EP-A-252,504, EP-A-252,505, US Patent No. 4,777,163, US Patent No. 5,002,937, and US Patent No. 4,971,958.

25 Methods for the preparation of bisphosphonic acids may be found in, e.g., US Patent No. 3,962,432; US Patent No. 4,054,598; US Patent No. 4,267,108; US Patent No. 4,327,039; US Patent No. 4,407,761; US Patent No. 4,621,077; US Patent No. 4,624,947; US Patent No. 4,746,654; US Patent No. 4,922,077; US Patent No. 4,970,335; US Patent No. 5,019,651; US Patent No. 4,761,406; US Patent No. 4,876,248; J. Org. Chem. 32, 4111 (1967) and EP-A- 252,504. The pharmaceutically acceptable salts of bisphosphonic acids may also be employed in the instant invention. Examples of base salts of bisphosphonic acids include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts such as potassium and sodium (including mono, di- and tri-sodium) salts (which are preferred), alkaline earth metal salts such as calcium and magnesium salts, salts with organic bases such as dicyclohexylamine salts, N-methyl-D-glucamine, and salts with amino acids such as arginine, lysine, and so forth. The

30

non-toxic, physiologically acceptable salts are preferred. The salts may be prepared by methods known in the art, such as described in European Patent Pub. No. 252,504 or in US Patent No. 4,922,077.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the term "bisphosphonate" of
5 the present invention corresponds to compounds of general formula



wherein A and X are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, SH, phenyl, alkyl, mono- or dialkylamino, mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, thiophenyl, and aryl or heteroaryl moieties selected
10 from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridyl, furanyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolyl, and benzyl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with alkyl.

In the foregoing chemical formula, A can include X and X include A such that the two moieties can form part of the same cyclic structure.

The foregoing chemical formula is also intended to encompass carbocyclic, aromatic
15 and heteroaromatic structures for the A and/or X substituents, e.g. naphthyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, adamantyl, and chlorophenylthio.

Preferred structures are those in which A is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, and halogen, an X is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, halogen, thiophenyl, thioalkyl and dialkylaminoalkyl.

20 More preferred structures are those in which A is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, and Cl and X is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, Cl, chlorophenylthio and dialkylaminoalkyl.

Most preferred is when A is hydroxy and X is (N-methyl-N-pentyl)amino-ethyl, i.e. ibandronate.

25 Examples of bisphosphonates, i.e. bisphosphonic acids and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof which may be employed as active ingredients in the instant invention include:

- a) 4-amino-1-hydroxybutylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (alendronate),
- b) N-methyl-4-amino-1-hydroxybutylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid,

- c) 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxybutylidene-1,1-bis-phosphonic acid,
 - d) 3-amino-1-hydroxypropylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (pamidronate),
 - e) 3-(N-methyl-N-pentyl) amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (ibandronic acid),
 - 5 f) [3-(N-methyl-N-pentyl) amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-bisphosphonic acid, monosodium salt, monohydrate] (ibandronate),
 - g) 1-hydroxy-3-(N-methyl-N-pentylamino)propylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid,
 - h) 1-hydroxy-2-[3-pyridinyl]ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (risedronate),
 - i) 4-(hydroxymethylene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid)piperidine,
 - 10 j) cycloheptylaminomethylene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (cimadronate),
 - k) 1,1-dichloromethylene-1,1-diphosphonic acid and the dissodium salt (clodronate),
 - l) 1-hydroxy-3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)-propylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (EB-1053),
 - m) 1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid (etidronic acid),
 - 15 n) 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (neridronate),
 - o) 3-(dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (olpadronate),
 - p) [2-(2-pyridinyl)ethylidene]-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (piridronate),
 - q) (4-chlorophenyl)thiomethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid (tiludronate),
 - 20 r) 1-hydroxy-2-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)ethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (zolendronate).
 - s) [(cycloheptylamino)-methylene]-bisphosphonic acid (icadronate), and/or
 - t) [1-Hydroxy-2imidazo-(1,2-a) pyridin-3-ylethylidene]-bisphosphonic acid
- and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

25 Active substances used in accordance with the invention are aminobisphosphonates, such as e.g. ibandronate, clodronate, etidronate, risedronate, zoledronate, tiludronate, pamidronate, cimadronate (YM175) and/or alendronate or their sodium or calcium salts.

The active substances are preferably used in the form of their soluble salts to which
 30 belong ammonium salts, alkali and alkaline earth salts such as sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium salts, salts with organic bases such as dicyclohexylamine salts or salts with amino acids such as e.g. arginine or lysine. It is especially preferred to use the sodium or calcium salts.

In a more preferred embodiment of the present invention, the bisphosphonate is 3-
 35 (N-methyl-N-pentyl) amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (ibandronic acid)

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or even more preferably 3-(N-methyl-N-pentyl) amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-bisphosphonic acid, monosodium salt, monohydrate.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the preparation may comprise an active substance, a calcium salt and a diffusion inhibiting compound selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose and alginate.

10 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention a preparation as described above may contain 200-300 µg of the active substance or active substance mixture, 0.5 mg of a calcium salt and 15 mg of a cellulose derivative or alginate in 1 ml of water. Another preferred embodiment of the present invention may comprise 1 mg of the active substance or active substance mixture, 1 mg of a calcium salt and 50 mg of a cellulose derivative or alginate in 1 ml of water.

15 Another aspect of the present invention relates to a process for the production of an aqueous pharmaceutical preparation for subcutaneous administration containing bisphosphonic acids or their physiologically acceptable salts as the active substance as described above, characterized by dissolving the active substance in water and subsequently adding to the solution a compound which inhibits the diffusion in the tissue or mixing the active substance and diffusion-inhibiting compound and dissolving them together in water or adding the active substance to aqueous solutions of the diffusion-inhibiting compounds. Optionally a calcium salt is added.

The invention also refers to the use of a preparation as described above for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of osteoporosis.

25 The production of the pharmaceutical preparations is carried out according to conventional procedures. For example, aqueous solutions of the active substance, optionally with the addition of a calcium compound, are produced and are then treated with the diffusion-inhibiting substance so that no solid particles are present or the active substance and diffusion-inhibiting compound, optionally with the addition of a calcium compound, are admixed, and dissolved together. In a further procedural variant, aqueous solutions of the diffusion-inhibiting substances are firstly produced and to these are
30 subsequently added the active substances, optionally with the addition of a calcium compound.

By means of the thus-produced pharmaceutical preparations it is possible to utilize bisphosphonic acids or their salts subcutaneously in a pain-free and medically-safe manner.

Thus, e.g. by means of the preparations in accordance with the invention 1 mg of an active substance can be administered not only at intervals of 3 months or in appropriate aliquots every four weeks, but also in substantially smaller amounts every second, third, etc. day. In a particularly preferred embodiment 200-300 µg of active substance or active substance mixture, optionally with the addition of calcium ions (7-12 mM) can be mixed with 15 mg of a diffusion-inhibiting substance, e.g. sodium carboxymethylcellulose or alginate, and administered subcutaneously every 4 weeks. In another particularly preferred embodiment 1 mg of active substance or active substance mixture, optionally with the addition of 7 mM of calcium ions, is mixed with 50 mg of a diffusion-inhibiting substance, e.g. sodium carboxymethylcellulose or alginate, and administered subcutaneously at intervals of 3 months. The pharmaceutical preparation can also be administered intermittently. Thus, a three-fold administration at intervals of 4 weeks can follow a pause of 3 months.

Accordingly, by means of the preparation in accordance with the invention highly concentrated doses are possible which are well tolerated after subcutaneous administration.

Furthermore, it is possible to provide the preparation in accordance with the invention so that it can be given using a multi-dose administration system (so-called pen) over a period of e.g. 4 to 6 weeks in prescribed intervals and dosages. Thereby, on pressing the button the appropriate dosage is injected once weekly in a manner which is especially simple and convenient for patients. With this, injection volumes between 25 µg and 1 ml per injection can be realized.

In accordance with the invention it is also possible to administer locally relatively high concentrations of bisphosphonates without the need to make allowances for the disadvantages resulting in the use of highly concentrated solutions or particulate systems.

The invention is illustrated in more detail in the following Examples.

EXAMPLESExample 1: Preparations of bisphosphonate-containing sodium carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) hydrogels

5 Preparation Method 1

20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance are weighed into a closable glass vessel together with 5.00 g of Na CMC and made up to 100.0 g with bidistilled water. The solid components are dispersed in the closed vessel by shaking vigorously for 30 seconds. Subsequently, the mixture is stirred, initially rapidly, for example at 300 revolutions per
10 minute, using a magnetic stirrer with a large magnetic core or using a propeller stirrer. After about 10 minutes the number of revolutions is lowered to about 10 to 20 per minute in order to avoid the inclusion of air in the swelling preparation. The temperature can be increased up to about 80°C in order to accelerate the swelling procedure. The preparation is stirred in the closed vessel until the transparent gel is homogeneous upon flowing and
15 appears free from agglomerations. As a rule, this state is reached after 3 days.

Preparation Method 2

20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance are made up to 95.0 g with bidistilled water and dissolved. 5.00 g of Na CMC are weighed into a closable glass vessel and treated with
20 the substance solution. The solid components are dispersed in the closed vessel by vigorous shaking for 30 seconds. Subsequently, the mixture is stirred, initially rapidly, for example at 300 revolutions per minute, using a magnetic stirrer with a large magnetic core or using a propeller stirrer. After about 10 minutes the number of revolutions is lowered to about 10 to 20 per minute in order to avoid the inclusion of air in the swelling preparation.
25 The temperature can be increased up to about 80°C in order to accelerate the swelling procedure. The preparation is stirred in the closed vessel until the transparent gel is homogeneous upon flowing and appears free from agglomerations. As a rule, this state is reached after 3 days.

Preparation Method 3

20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance are weighed into a closable glass vessel together with 5.00 g of Na CMC and 100 mg of calcium chloride and made up to 100.0 g with bidistilled water. The solid components are dispersed in the closed vessel by shaking
5 vigorously for 30 seconds. Subsequently, the mixture is stirred, initially rapidly, for example at 300 revolutions per minute, using a magnetic stirrer with a large magnetic core or using a propeller stirrer. After about 10 minutes the number of revolutions is lowered to about 10 to 20 per minute in order to avoid the inclusion of air in the swelling preparation. The temperature can be increased up to about 80°C in order to accelerate the
10 swelling procedure. The preparation is stirred in the closed vessel until the transparent gel is homogeneous upon flowing and appears free from agglomerations. As a rule, this state is reached after 3 days.

Preparation Method 4

15 20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance and 100 mg of calcium chloride are made up to 95.0 g with bidistilled water and dissolved. 5.00 g of Na CMC are weighed into a closable glass vessel and treated with the substance solution. The solid components are dispersed by vigorous shaking for 30 seconds. Subsequently, the mixture is stirred, initially rapidly, for example at 300 revolutions per minute, using a magnetic stirrer with a
20 large magnetic core or using a propeller stirrer. After about 10 minutes the number of revolutions is lowered to about 10 to 20 per minute in order to avoid the inclusion of air in the swelling preparation. The temperature can be increased up to about 80°C in order to accelerate the swelling procedure. The preparation is stirred in the closed vessel until the transparent gel is homogeneous upon flowing and appears free from agglomerations. As a
25 rule, this state is reached after 3 days.

Preparation Method 5

20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance are made up to 95.0 g with bidistilled water and dissolved. This solution is poured into a glass vessel of large diameter, for example
30 into a Petri dish with a diameter of 15 to 30 cm. 5.00 g of Na CMC are sprinkled in a thin layer on the surface of the standing liquid. The vessel is covered to prevent evaporation. The vessel must be stored without vibration until the swelling of the Na CMC has finished.

After about 3 days, when the gel has swollen homogeneously, it can be transferred into another vessel and sealed.

Preparation Method 6

- 5 20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance and 100 mg of calcium chloride are made up to 95.0 g with bidistilled water and dissolved. The solution is poured into a glass vessel of large diameter, for example into a Petri dish with a diameter of 15 to 30 cm. 5.00 g of Na CMC are sprinkled in a thin layer on the surface of the standing liquid. The vessel is covered to prevent evaporation. The vessel must be stored without vibration until the
- 10 swelling of the Na CMC has finished. After about 3 days, when the gel has swollen homogeneously, it can be transferred into another vessel and sealed.

Example 2: Preparations of bisphosphonate-containing alginate hydrogels

Preparation Method 1

- 15 20 mg or 100 mg of the active substance are weighed into a closable glass vessel together with 2.50 g of alginate and 100 mg of calcium chloride and made up to 100.0 g with bidistilled water. The solid components are dispersed in the closed vessel by shaking vigorously for 30 seconds. Subsequently, the mixture is stirred, initially rapidly, for example at 300 revolutions per minute, using a magnetic stirrer with a large magnetic core
- 20 or using a propeller stirrer. After about 10 minutes the number of revolutions is lowered to about 10 to 20 per minute in order to avoid the inclusion of air in the swelling preparation. The temperature can be increased up to about 80°C in order to accelerate the swelling procedure. The preparation is stirred in the closed vessel until the transparent gel is homogeneous upon flowing and appears free from agglomerations. As a rule, this state
- 25 is reached after 3 days.

Preparation Method 2

- 2.50 g of alginate are weighed into a closable glass vessel and made up to 80.0 g with bidistilled water. The solid substance is dispersed in the closed vessel by shaking vigorously
- 30 for 30 seconds and subsequently stirred, initially rapidly, for example at 300 revolutions per minute, using a magnetic stirrer with a large magnetic core or using a blade stirrer.

After about 10 minutes the number of revolutions is lowered to about 10 to 20 per minute and stirring is continued overnight.

On the next day 20 g of the active substance solution (see below) are added dropwise with further stirring and stirring is continued for a further day. Thereafter, the gel is left to stand for a further 24 hours in order for the air to disappear.

Preparation of the active substance solution: 40 mg or 200 mg of the active substance and 200 mg of calcium chloride are made up to 40.0 g with bidistilled water and dissolved.

Example 3: Testing for the subcutaneous compatibility of an aqueous buffered solution of 0.2 mg/ml ibandronate

Preparation and filling of the solution:

1600 ml of water (water for injection) are placed in a glass beaker and 562.5 mg of ibandronate (hydrate, monosodium salt, corresponding to 500 mg of ibandronate) are dissolved therein while stirring. 21.5 mg of NaCl are added and dissolved and the pH is adjusted to a value of 6.0 by the addition of sodium acetate. Thereafter, the mixture is made up to the final volume of 2500 ml with water.

The solution is filtered through a 0.2 µm membrane and filled into ampoules. The filled ampoules are subsequently steam sterilized at 121°C/20 minutes.

Compatibility testing:

The local subcutaneous compatibility was tested using 4 male and 4 female rabbits. Each animal was given a total of 3 injections (in each case 0.5 ml/animal) – divided over 7 days – under the skin of the left side of the body. In the isolated sections the injection sites were controlled for histopathological evaluation.

Clinically the animals showed pain reactions during and after the injections.

Macroscopically all injection sites were swollen and reddened.

Histopathologically the samples (in each case 2 to 3 tissue sections from different levels of the injection region) showed clear signs of an irritation, independently of the observation period:

Transcribed, predominantly subcutaneous necroses (binding tissue/muscle tissue);
predominantly high degree inflammatory oedema site/focal haemorrhages and
vasculitis;

focal inflammatory cell infiltration in different degrees of prominence.

- 5 Evaluation of the aforementioned formulation: Subcutaneously incompatible having regard to the present results.

Example 4: Testing for the subcutaneous compatibility of a CMC gel without ibandronate (placebo)

- 10 Preparation and filling of the placebo gel for an animal experiment

100 ml of water (water for injection) are placed in a glass beaker.

Thereafter, 12.5 g of Na carboxymethylcellulose are introduced portionwise and the volume is made up to 250 ml with water. The batch is stirred slowly with a blade stirrer for 24 hours and thereafter left to stand for a further 24 hours in order for the air to disappear.

- 15 The gel is then filled into sterilized glass syringes having a flask and rubber plunger, with the fill amount of each syringe being 0.55 g (filling via the cone). The cone of each syringe was sealed with a rubber tip cap.

- 20 The filled syringes are stood upright (i.e. with the cone upwards) and sterilized by steam scrubbing in an autoclave. A Pt100 heat conductor placed in the product solution of one syringe is used to control the sterilization time (121-123°C, 20 min., 1 bar gauge pressure).

The syringes are subsequently dried in a sterile room for 12 hours at room temperature under laminar flow and stored sealed in sterilized foil until used.

- 25 Compatibility testing:

The local subcutaneous compatibility was tested using 4 male and 4 female rabbits. Each animal was given a total of 3 injections (in each case 0.5 ml/animal) – divided over

7 days – under the skin of the left side of the body. In the isolated section the injection sites were controlled for histopathological evaluation.

Clinically the animals showed no signs of an incompatibility during and after the injections.

5 Macroscopically all injection sites were inconspicuous.

Histopathologically the samples (in each case 2 to 3 tissue sections from different levels of the injection region) showed the following changes:

Isolated alterations which are due to the injection technique (e.g. small haematomas with low grade resorptive cell infiltrate).

10 Low grade alterations (to be expected) in the sense of a resorption of the test formulation (e.g. small macrophage sites).

No signs of an irritation, independent of the observation period.

Evaluation of the aforementioned composition: subcutaneously compatible having regard to the present results.

15

Example 5: Testing for the subcutaneous compatibility of a CMC gel with 0.2 mg ibandronate/g gel

Preparation and filling of the gel for an animal experiment

20 100 ml of water (water for injection) are placed in a glass beaker and 56.25 mg of ibandronate (hydrate, monosodium salt, corresponding to 50 mg of ibandronate) are dissolved therein while stirring.

Thereafter, 12.5 g of Na carboxymethylcellulose are introduced portionwise and the volume is made up to 250 ml with water. The batch is stirred slowly with a blade stirrer for 24 hours and thereafter left to stand for a further 24 hours in order for the air to disappear.

25 The gel is then filled into sterilized glass syringes having a flask and rubber plunger, with the fill amount of each syringe being 0.55 g (filling via the cone). The cone of each syringe was sealed with a rubber tip cap.

The filled syringes are stood upright (i.e. with the cone upwards) and sterilized by steam scrubbing in an autoclave. A Pt100 heat conductor placed in the product solution of one syringe is used to control the sterilization time (121-123°C, 20 min., 1 bar gauge pressure).

- 5 The syringes are subsequently dried in a sterile room for 12 hours at room temperature under laminar flow and stored sealed in sterilized foil until used.

Compatibility testing:

- 10 The local subcutaneous compatibility was tested using 2 male and 2 female rabbits. Each animal was given a total of 3 injections (in each case 0.5 ml/animal) – divided over 7 days – under the skin of the right side of the body. In the isolated section the injection sites were controlled for histopathological evaluation.

Clinically the animals showed no signs of an incompatibility during and after the injections.

- 15 Macroscopically all injection sites were inconspicuous.

Histopathologically the samples (in each case 2 to 3 tissue sections from different levels of the injection region) showed the following changes:

Isolated alterations which are due to the injection technique (e.g. small haematomas with low grade resorptive cell infiltrate).

- 20 Low grade alterations (to be expected) in the sense of a resorption of the test formulation (e.g. small macrophage sites).

Only slight and isolated signs of an irritation, independent of the observation period (e.g. low grade focal haemorrhages or tissue necroses).

- 25 Evaluation of the aforementioned composition: subcutaneously compatible conditionally having regard to the present results.

Example 6: Testing for the subcutaneous compatibility of a CMC gel with the addition of calcium ions

Preparation and filling of the gel for an animal experiment

100 ml of water (water for injection) are placed in a glass beaker and 331.25 mg of
5 $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ are dissolved therein while stirring. Thereafter, 12.5 g of Na
carboxymethylcellulose are introduced portionwise and the volume is made up to 250 ml
with water. The batch is stirred slowly with a blade stirrer for 24 hours and thereafter left
to stand for a further 24 hours in order for the air to disappear.

The gel is then filled into sterilized glass syringes having a flask and rubber plunger,
10 with the fill amount of each syringe being 0.55 g (filling via the cone). The cone of each
syringe was sealed with a rubber tip cap.

The filled syringes are stood upright (i.e. with the cone upwards) and sterilized by
steam scrubbing in an autoclave. A Pt100 heat conductor placed in the product solution
of one syringe is used to control the sterilization time (121-123°C, 20 min., 1 bar gauge
15 pressure).

The syringes are subsequently dried in a sterile room for 12 hours at room
temperature under laminar flow and stored sealed in sterilized foil until used.

Compatibility testing:

20 The local subcutaneous compatibility was tested using 4 male and 4 female rabbits.
Each animal was given a total of 3 injections (in each case 0.5 ml/animal) – divided over
7 days – under the skin of the left side of the body. In the isolated section the injection
sites were controlled for histopathological evaluation.

Clinically the animals showed no signs of an incompatibility during and after the
25 injections.

Macroscopically all injection sites were inconspicuous.

Histopathologically the samples (in each case 2 to 3 tissue sections from different
levels of the injection region) showed the following changes:

Isolated alterations which are due to the injection technique (e.g. small haematomas
30 with low grade resorptive cell infiltrate).

Low grade alterations (to be expected) in the sense of a resorption of the test formulation (e.g. small macrophage sites).

No signs of an irritation, independent of the observation period.

Evaluation of the aforementioned composition: subcutaneously compatible having
5 regard to the present results.

Example 7: Testing for the subcutaneous compatibility of a CMC gel with the addition of calcium ions and 0.2 mg ibandronate/g gel

Preparation and filling of the gel for an animal experiment:

10 100 ml of water (water for injection) are placed in a glass beaker and 56.25 mg of ibandronate (hydrate, monosodium salt, corresponding to 50 mg of ibandronate) as well as 331.25 mg of $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ are dissolved therein while stirring. Thereafter, 12.5 g of Na carboxymethylcellulose are introduced portionwise and the volume is made up to 250 ml with water. The batch is stirred slowly with a blade stirrer for 24 hours and thereafter left
15 to stand for a further 24 hours in order for the air to disappear.

The gel is then filled into sterilized glass syringes having a flask and rubber piston, with the fill amount of each syringe being 0.55 g (filling via the cone). The cone of each syringe was sealed with a rubber tip cap.

The filled syringes are stood upright (i.e. with the cone upwards) and sterilized by
20 steam scrubbing in an autoclave. A Pt100 heat conductor placed in the product solution of one syringe is used to control the sterilization time (121-123°C, 20 min., 1 bar gauge pressure).

The syringes are subsequently dried in a sterile room for 12 hours at room temperature under laminar flow and stored sealed in sterilized foil until used.

25

Compatibility testing:

The local subcutaneous compatibility was tested using 2 male and 2 female rabbits. Each animal was given a total of 3 injections (in each case 0.5 ml/animal) – divided over 7 days – under the skin of the right side of the body. In the isolated section the injection
30 sites were controlled for histopathological evaluation.

Clinically the animals showed no signs of an incompatibility during and after the injections.

Macroscopically all injection sites were inconspicuous.

Histopathologically the samples (in each case 2 to 3 tissue sections from different
5 levels of the injection region) showed the following changes:

Isolated alterations which are due to the injection technique (e.g. small haematomas with low grade resorptive cell infiltrate).

Low grade alterations (to be expected) in the sense of a resorption of the test formulation (e.g. small macrophage sites).

10 No signs of an irritation, independent of the observation period.

Evaluation of the aforementioned composition: subcutaneously compatible having regard to the present results.

CLAIMS

1. Gel-like, aqueous pharmaceutical preparation for subcutaneous administration comprising bisphosphonic acids or their physiologically acceptable salts,
5 characterized in that the pharmaceutical preparation contains at least one compound which inhibits the diffusion of the active substance in the tissue, with the active substance being present in dissolved form in the preparation and the preparation having a viscosity $\geq 220 \text{ mPa}\cdot\text{s}$.
2. Preparation according to claim 1, characterized in that the compound which
10 inhibits the diffusion in the tissue is a natural and/or synthetic polymer.
3. Preparation according to claim 2, characterized in that the natural polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, alginic acid derivatives, dextrans, gelatines, collagen, hyaluronic acids and/or dermatan and heparan sulphates.
- 15 4. Preparation according to claim 3, characterized in that the natural polymer is a cellulose derivative.
5. Preparation according to claim 4, characterized in that the cellulose derivative is a soluble alkyl- or hydroxyalkylcellulose derivative.
6. Preparation according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the cellulose derivative
20 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethylcellulose (HMC), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), methylhydroxyethylcellulose (MHEC), hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC), carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), methylcellulose (MC) and their mixtures.
7. Preparation according to claims 4 to 6, characterized in that the natural polymer is
25 sodium carboxymethylcellulose.
8. Preparation according to claim 3, characterized in that the natural polymer is alginate.
9. Preparation according to claim 2, characterized in that the synthetic polymer is
30 selected from the group consisting of poly(meth)acrylic acids, poly(meth)acrylates, polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinyl alcohol.

10. Preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the diffusion-inhibiting compound is present in a concentration of 0.01-15% (w/w).
11. Preparation according to claim 10, characterized in that the diffusion-inhibiting compound is sodium carboxymethylcellulose (Na CMC) used in a concentration of 1-7% (w/w).
12. Preparation according to claim 11, characterized in that the diffusion-inhibition compound is sodium carboxymethylcellulose (Na CMC) used in a concentration 4-6% (w/w).
13. Preparation according to claim 10, characterized in that the diffusion-inhibition compound is alginate used in a concentration of 1-5% (w/w).
14. Preparation according to claim 13, characterized in that the diffusion-inhibition compound is alginate used in a concentration of 2-3% (w/w).
15. Preparation according to claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the viscosity is from 380 to 1800 mPa*s.
16. Preparation according to claims 1 to 15, comprising 1 - 20 mM of calcium ions.
17. Preparation according to claim 16, comprising 1 - 20 mM of CaCl₂.
18. Preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that the active substance is ibandronate, clodronate, etidronate, risedronate, zoledronate, tiludronate, pamidronate, cimidronate (YM175) and/or alendronate or their sodium or calcium salts.
19. Preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that the active substance is 3-(N-methyl-N-pentyl) amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-bisphosphonic acid (ibandronic acid) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
20. Preparation according to claim 19, characterized in that the active substance is 3-(N-methyl-N-pentyl) amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-bisphosphonic acid, monosodium salt, monohydrate.
21. Preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 20 characterized in that the preparation comprises an active substance, a calcium salt and a diffusion inhibiting compound selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose and alginate.

22. Preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that it comprises 200-300 μ g of the active substance or active substance mixture, 0.5 mg of a calcium salt and 15 mg of a cellulose derivative or alginate in 1 ml of water.
23. Preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that it comprises 1 mg of the active substance or active substance mixture, 1 mg of a calcium salt and 50 mg of a cellulose derivative or alginate in 1 ml of water.
24. Process for the production of an aqueous pharmaceutical preparation for subcutaneous administration containing bisphosphonic acids or their physiologically acceptable salts as the active substance in accordance with claims 1 to 23, characterized by dissolving the active substance in water and subsequently adding to the solution a compound which inhibits the diffusion in the tissue or mixing the active substance and diffusion-inhibiting compound and dissolving them together in water or adding the active substance to aqueous solutions of the diffusion-inhibiting compounds.
25. Process according to claim 24, characterized in that a calcium salt is added.
26. Use of a preparation according to claims 1 to 23 for the preparation of a medicament of the treatment of osteoporosis.
27. The invention as hereinbefore defined.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 01/04550

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K47/38 A61K47/36 A61K31/663

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 94 02492 A (BOEHRINGER MANNHEIM GMBH ;ZILCH HARALD (DE); BAUSS FRIEDER (DE)) 3 February 1994 (1994-02-03) page 7, paragraph 1 -page 7, paragraph 2 ----	1-26
X	US 5 662 918 A (HELLER WERNER ET AL) 2 September 1997 (1997-09-02) column 2, line 16 -column 2, line 22 column 2, line 32 -column 2, line 41 ----	1,2,10, 15,26
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 01/04550

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	<p>WO 00 61111 A (LOEFROTH JAN ERIK ;SJOEGREN SVEN (SE); ASTRAZENECA AB (SE); LINDFO) 19 October 2000 (2000-10-19) formulations 4 and 5 -----</p>	<p>1,2,9, 15,18, 24,26</p>

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 27

Independent claim 27 relies to the entire specification in respect of all its technical features. The scope of the claim is so unclear (Article 6 PCT), that a meaningful search is not possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 01/04550

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